AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a ~~system of~~ parking meter for billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the ~~system~~ parking meter;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining billing charge information requested by the user from the ~~system with~~ parking meter having the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

a transmitting process unit transmitting the billing charge information to the user device; and

a payment process unit performing a payment according to a request for payment from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a ~~system of~~ parking meter for billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the ~~system~~ parking meter;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system~~ ~~with~~ parking meter having the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the ~~system~~ parking meter;

a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The server according to claim 2, wherein when the payment is made in a pre-payment system for a predetermined time, a message is transmitted to the user device at any time before the predetermined time elapses.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of managing a parking system use support method for a computer comprising a storage unit, the computer performing comprising:

receiving identification information of a system of parking meter for billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, and user information from a user device;

retrieving address information of the system parking meter, corresponding to the identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with parking meter having the retrieved address information retrieved corresponding to the identification information, from the system parking meter;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification

timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having

the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the parking meter ~~system~~ having the ~~retrieved~~ address

information.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program

~~used to direct~~, the program causing a computer to perform ~~the steps comprising~~:

~~performing~~ a communicating process through a network with a user device and a ~~system~~

parking meter for billing a user by a predetermined time;

performing a payment by communicating with the parking meter ~~system of billing a user~~

~~by a predetermined time~~, and obtaining charge information from the ~~system~~ parking meter

through the network;

retrieving address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter, corresponding to

identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system with~~ parking meter

having the address information retrieved corresponding to the identification information, from

the ~~system~~ parking meter;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program ~~used to direct,~~ the program causing a computer to perform ~~the steps comprising~~:

~~performing~~ a communicating process through a network with a user device and a ~~system~~ parking meter for billing a user by a predetermined time;

retrieving address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system with~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information retrieved corresponding to the identification information, from the ~~system~~ parking meter;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ <u>parking meter</u> having

the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ <u>parking meter</u> having the ~~retrieved~~ address

information.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a ~~system of~~

<u>parking meter for</u> billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length

of time, wherein the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device

through a network;

an information providing unit obtaining use information about a user who uses ~~a system~~

~~of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time~~ <u>the</u>

parking meter, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use

information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the

transmission timing;

a payment unit for making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter,

corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system~~

~~with~~ parking meter having the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from

the ~~system~~ parking meter;

a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of

notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device

according to the notification timing information received from the user device and transmitting a

lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address

information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program

~~used to direct,~~ the program causing a computer to perform ~~the steps comprising~~:

~~performing~~ a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a ~~system of~~ parking meter for billing a

user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a

transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the

message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

retrieving address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter, corresponding to

identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system with~~ parking meter

having the ~~retrieved~~ address information retrieved corresponding to the identification

information, from the ~~system~~ parking meter;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device

of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification

timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having

the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address

information.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a ~~system of~~ parking meter for billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

communications process means for performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the system;

a payment process ~~means for~~ unit performing a payment by communicating with the ~~system of billing a user for up to a predetermined total time~~ parking meter, and obtaining charge information from the ~~system~~ parking meter through the network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the ~~system~~ parking meter, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the ~~system~~ ~~with~~ parking meter having the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the ~~system~~ parking meter;

a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information, to the ~~system~~ parking meter having the ~~retrieved~~ address information.